

announce investigations into my dad. In fact, it said almost exactly that: “Get Zelensky to Announce that the Biden case will Be Investigated.”

Among Parnas’s many blockbuster revelations, one of the most damning was Giuliani’s connection to Dmytro Firtash, a Ukrainian oligarch whom U.S. federal prosecutors have described in court papers as an associate of Russian organized crime (which he denied). More charitable descriptions of Firtash include a “Kremlin influence agent” and, from a Ukrainian parliamentarian who investigated him, “a political person representing Russian interests in Ukraine.” It has also been reported that Firtash is attached to Semion Mogilevich, believed to be the Russian Mafia’s “boss of bosses.” He sat on the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list.

Firtash also appears to be the person with whom Giuliani reportedly tried to cut a deal, promising to get the U.S. Department of Justice to drop its attempt to extradite him to the United States on bribery charges.

Whether or not everything Parnas alleges turns out to be true is hardly the point. In the words of one *New York Times* columnist, “The very fact that a person like Parnas was carrying out high-level international missions for the president shows how mob-like this administration is.”

That’s why Burisma considered my last name gold. As Kwasniewski has since said: “I understand that if someone asks me to be part of some project it’s not only because I’m so good; it’s also because I am Kwasniewski and I am a former president of Poland. And this is all interconnected. No-names are a nobody. Being a Biden is not bad. It’s a good name.”

To put it more bluntly: having a Biden on Burisma’s board was a loud and unmistakable fuck-you to Putin.

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I joined the board in April 2014.

Every organization’s board dynamics differ. They can be combative during times of crisis, leadership upheavals, or a looming takeover. Boards can act as referees or change agents. In the case of Burisma, we were largely guardrails, there in case operations veered off track, agendas diverted from the norm—or events blew up again with Russia.

Burisma ran like a machine, with the palpable confidence of a business that had plenty of room to grow. The board gathered twice a year for meetings or energy forums, in various locations around Europe. Concerns